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Mr. C. Gopala Menon :— "May I inquire whether this increase is in proportion to the increase given to the permanent staff of the Government Press ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "I am not sure of it."

Rates of payment to pieceworkers in the Government Press.

* 440 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the various rates of payment to pieceworkers from the time the piecework system has been introduced ?

A.—Government presume that the question refers to the Government Press.

The piecework system was first introduced in the Government Press in 1861. The rate of remuneration then fixed was two annas per 1,000 ens for solid matter. This rate was varied in the case of other kinds of work according to their nature.

In January 1919, a war allowance of Rs. 6 per mensem was sanctioned on account of the increased cost of living.

In April 1920, the rate of remuneration was raised from two annas per 1,000 ens to 3 annas per 1,000 ens for solid matter and proportionately in other cases ; the war allowance of Rs. 6 per mensem was abolished at the same time. There has been no further revision of the rates.

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :— "I find from the appendix that the increase given to the permanent staff amounts to about 100 per cent, whereas according to the last paragraph of the answer the pieceworkers were given only one anna increase a day in 1920. That means only 50 per cent increase. Will the Government see that they are given the same proportion of increase as that given to the permanent staff of the Government Press ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "The Government considered the question, and I do not think it is possible for us to do so."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :— "May I know, Sir, whether, after taking away the war allowance of Rs. 6 and increasing the rate from 2 annas to 3 annas, the Government considered in how many cases men who discharged the same amount of work got the same pay as they were getting previously without any advantage being derived after the increase of rates ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "I will look into the question, Sir."

Revision of the scale of pay of the technical establishment of the Government Press.

* 441 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(a) to place on the table of the House the copies of the G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921, and of the G.O. No. 823, Finance, dated 3rd October 1922, containing proposals regarding the revision of the scale of pay of the technical establishments of the Government Press ; and

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(b) to state why the Government were not pleased to deal with the pieceworkers in the Government Orders referred to above?

A.—(a) A copy of G.O. No. 711, Finance, dated 11th July 1921,[a] is laid on the table. As regards G.O. No. 823, Finance, dated 3rd October 1922, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No 439.

(b) The rates of remuneration of pieceworkers were revised in 1920. There was therefore no necessity to deal with their case in connexion with the revision of the scales of pay of the salaried establishments in 1922.

Mr. C. Gopala Menon :—" The answer to clause (b) is that Government see no necessity to deal with the case of pieceworkers. Seeing that these pieceworkers are, in fact, really men who do work in the technical establishment and as they have got their increase only so long ago as 1920, will the Government now at least, after the lapse of 8 years, see that they are given some increase?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— The point, Sir, as mentioned by the hon. Member, was considered in 1920."

Pieceworkers in the Government Press.

* 442 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of permanent and temporary pieceworkers in the Government Press on 1st July 1928;

(b) the sanctioned permanent strength of the pieceworkers;

(c) the number of vacancies in that establishment on 1st July 1928;

(d) the number of temporary pieceworkers of five years' standing and more on 1st July 1928;

(e) whether Government have passed orders in G.O. No. 569, Finance, dated 6th August 1919, that temporary pieceworkers will be promoted within a period of twelve months to the vacancies in the pensionable piece-work establishment whenever they arise;

(f) if so, why they are not made permanent even after 5, 6, or 7 years;

(g) how many have earned Rs. 30 or more as estimated in G.O. No. 388, Finance, dated 22nd April 1920, and how many less during the month of June 1928 and why;

(h) whether the Superintendent is summarily dispensing with the services of the temporary pieceworkers of three or four years' standing and more as he pleases on plea of reduction and whether he is empowered to do so without appeal to Government;

(i) if so, how many were thus dispensed with in each of the months from January 1926 to July 1928, with their respective years of temporary service and why; and

(j) whether it is the duty of the Superintendent to arrange for a good supply of stock work to be sent in, which the press can go on with whenever work is slack so that their employment may be fairly continuous; and if so, what steps have been taken by the Superintendent to ensure adequate supply of work?

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a Printed as Appendix V on pages 243-244 infra.